32.

Briſtols ſecond Addreſs,

As it was preſented to their late Members in Parliament, at their return from *Oxford.*

TO THE RIGHT WORSHIPFUL

Sir RICHARD HART, Knight, Mayor of the City of *Briſtol*, and THOMAS EARL, Eſquire, our late Repreſentatives in Parliament for the ſaid City and County of *Briſtol.*

I. THAT you may ſee the ſhort life of the late Parliament hath not influenced *us to Change* by altering our Duty to *our Sovereign* or our reſpects to You; We now receive You into this City with the ſame Loyal affections that we conducted You out on Your journey to *Oxford.*

II. We are neither *Presbyterians* nor any of thoſe Sects, who preſuming to pry into Gods ſecret Counſels, are the leſs to be wondred at, that they ſaucily canvaſs and diſpute all the Actions of his Vicegerent. And therefore we enter not into the Reaſons moving His Majeſty unto this ſudden Diſſolution, but humbly acquieſce therein with Duty and Loyalty becoming honeſt and peaceably minded Subjects.

III. Whatever the Author of *Vox Populi* or other factious and ſeditious Scriblers have with very ill purpoſes and deſigns of late falſely inſinuated into the People: We are ſenſible that the Power of *Calling* and *Diſſolving Parliaments* at pleaſure, is one of thoſe inſeparable *Prerogatives* of the *Crown*, which (no leſs neceſſary for the Subjects Safety than the Prince's Grandeur) We in the third Article of our former Addreſs aſſert and defend againſt all Oppoſers.

IV. We are abundantly ſatisfied that our *gracious King*, who hath hitherto made the *Laws* the meaſure of his *Actions* and *Proceedings*, will ſtill continue to us the ſame juſt practice; And being aſſured by our former experience and His Royal promiſe in His moſt Excellent Speech at the Opening of the late Seſſion, *That he himſelf would neither uſe Arbitrary Power, nor ſuffer it in others*; We therefore take it for granted, That he ſaw no leſs juſt cauſe for the Diſſolving this than the preceding Parliament.

V. Had

V. Had this Parliament continued a week longer, We had not (as now) wanted an opportunity of vindicating our Election of You our true Repreſentatives to the great Diſhonour of Your Competitors, in the Refutation of the many ſcandalous and notorious falſhoods contained in the Petition preſented (as is ſaid) by Sir *Robert Atkins*, Sir *John Knight*, and others, to the late Houſe of Commons.

VI. And (here) We cannot but return you our hearty thanks and acknowledgments for Your Courage and Reſolution ſhewn on this Occaſion, and doubt not but You will ſtill retain the ſame conſtancy and ſteadineſs.

VII. We deſire, That You will be ready and prepared with Us with lives and fortunes to ſtand by His Majeſty and the eſtabliſhed Government both in Church and State, doing in Your reſpective Stations what in You lies. And wherein Your Power ſhall fall ſhort, praying from His Majeſty aſſiſtance and encouragement, countenance and protection for the due Execution of the Statutes in being, particularly that of the 35th *Eliz.* made upon moſt deliberate Counſels (as the Hiſtory of thoſe times atteſts) againſt all Recuſants and Diſſenters whatever, their Proſecution being in our Opinion the only means (under God) to preſerve the Kings Perſon, our Religion, Liberty and Property from the ſecret machinations and helliſh conſpiracies of the wicked and ambitious, whether Papiſts or Fanaticks.

VIII. And in this bleſſed Union, let us all with heart and hand join as one man, and let all honeſt people heartily ſay (as we do) *God ſave our good King Charles the Second*; let His and our Enemies be confounded: but upon *Himſelf* and His lawful *Succeſſors*, let the *Crown* be *for ever* eſtabliſhed and flouriſh, *Amen, Amen.*

Briſtol the firſt of *April* 1681.

This was ſubſcribed by moſt of the Aldermen and Common Council of the ſaid City, and by ſeveral hundred more (Citizens and Freeholders there.) As likewiſe was their former Addreſs, notwithſtanding Langley Curtis *had the impudence in his* Proteſtant Mercury (*Number* 24.) *falſly to affirm, that the ſaid former Addreſs was a forgery, and an abuſe put upon the ſaid City, and that they were altogether ignorant thereof: And thereupon took occaſion to vilifie Mr.* Thompſon (*a reverend Miniſter of the ſaid City*) *in ſcurrilous language peculiar to ſuch* Common-wealth-Proteſtants; *which ſaid former Addreſs (with this now preſented) is and will be owned not only by thoſe who ſubſcribed them, but by all other his Majeſties truly Loyal Subjects within that City.*

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